

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS 12-31-81

TAGS: MCAP, NATO

SUBJECT: EWG MEETING NOVEMBER 16 ON BASIC ISSUES OF DEFENSE PLANNING

REF: A. USNATO 5164 NOTAL

B. USNATO 5420 NOTAL

C. USNATO 5515 NOTAL

SUMMARY: DURING MEETING NOV 16, EWG CONSIDERED REVISED DRAFT REPORT ON BASIC ISSUES OF DEFENSE PLANNING (REFTEL A AND C). DISCUSSION WAS LIMITED TO THOSE PORTIONS OF DRAFT REPORT CONCERNING AIRCRAFT SHELTERS AND DEFENSE AGAINST ARMOR. EWG REACHED CONSENSUS ON ARMOR PORTION OF DRAFT, BUT WAS UNABLE TO FINALIZE KEY ("PROPOSALS") PARAGRAPHS ON AIRCRAFT SHELTERS. CHAIRMAN (HUMPHREYS) SCHEDULED NOVEMBER 19 FOLLOW-UP MEETING OF EWG TO COMPLETE AIRCRAFT SHELTERS AND WAR RESERVES PORTIONS OF REPORT. END SUMMARY.

1. DEFENSE AGAINST ARMOR. CHANGES TO ARMOR PORTION OF REVISED DRAFT WERE LARGELY EDITORIAL EXCEPT FOR FOLLOWING:

A. DELETE PARA 21 ORIGINAL DRAFT (REFTEL A) AND INSERT:
BEGIN TEXT. THE EXAMINATION OF COUNTRY PLANS FOR THE
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PERIOD 1974-1978 SHOWS THAT THE MAJORITY OF COUNTRIES HAVE ALREADY PROCURED OR HAVE FIRM PLANS TO PROCURE SHORT-RANGE ANTI-ARMOR WEAPONS. WHEN THESE PLANS ARE FULLY IMPLEMENTED, THE SITUATION WILL THEREFORE BE IMPROVED. THE SITUATION REGARDING MODERN

MEDIUM AND LONG-RANGE WEAPONS IS ALSO IMPROVING; PRACTICALLY ALL COUNTRIES HAVE FIRM PLANS TO INTRODUCE EQUIPMENT SUCH AS TOW OR ITS EQUIVALENT INTO THEIR FORCES. HOWEVER, IN SOME COUNTRIES DELAYS ARE OCCURRING IN PROCUREMENT PROGRAMMES FOR THESE MEDIUM AND LONG-RANGE WEAPONS; MOREOVER IN A NUMBER OF CASES PROCUREMENT IS NOT ON A SUFFICIENTLY ADEQUATE SCALE. PLANS FOR THE PURCHASE OF HELICOPTERS WITH ANTI-ARMOR CAPABILITIES DO NOT EXIST IN THE MAJORITY OF COUNTRIES. THE SITUATION REGARDING BARRIERS AND MINELAYING EQUIPMENT REMAINS FAR FROM SATISFACTORY. FINALLY IT SHOULD BE STRESSED THAT THE SITUATION CONTINUES TO BE THE LEAST SATISFACTORY ON THE FLANKS WHERE SERIOUS AMMUNITION SHORTAGES ARE LIKELY TO CONTINUE TO EXIST AND WHERE SOME COUNTRIES CONCERNED STILL RELY FOR THEIR ANTI-ARMOR AND ARMOR CAPABILITIES ON OBSOLETE WEAPONS. END TEXT.

B. CHANGE PARA 32A REVISED DRAFT (REFTEL C) TO READ
QUOTE AS AN INTERIM MEASURE ADOPT NOT LATER THAN END-1974
PROCUREMENT PROGRAMMES FOR THE ACQUISITION OF MODERN WEAPONS
TO RE-EQUIP FORCES AND/OR TO REPLACE OLDER, LESS CAPABLE
WEAPONS AS FAR AS POSSIBLE ON A ONE-FOR-ONE BASIS UNQUOTE.

2. AIRCRAFT SHELTERS. EWG WAS UNABLE TO REACH AGREEMENT ON AIRCRAFT SHELTER PORTION OF REVISED DRAFT. MAJOR POINT OF CONTENTION RELATED TO SHELTERING EARMARKED AIRCRAFT ARRIVING ON CONTINENT BY M PLUS 3. US REP (BRIG GEN BOWMAN) FORCEFULLY DESCRIBED OPERATIONAL NECESSITY TO SHELTER SUCH AIRCRAFT. FRG REP, HOWEVER, EXPRESSED VIEW THAT IT MIGHT BE MORE IMPORTANT TO SHELTER AIRCRAFT ALREADY BASED ON CONTINENT AND CITED POSSIBILITY THAT US PROPOSAL MIGHT RESULT IN EMPTY SHELTERS DURING PEACETIME. CHAIRMAN SUGGESTED ISSUE BE DISCUSSED/RESOLVED AT NOVEMBER 19 EWG MEETING.

3. US REP CONTINUED DISCUSSION WITH FRG REP AFTER THE MEETING AND EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF DEMONSTRATING THAT US M PLUS 3 AIRCRAFT WERE AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE NATO CAPABILITY AND EVERYONE, INCLUDING THE SOVIETS, COULD COUNT ON THEIR ARRIVAL. THEREFORE, THERE IS A CRITICAL REQUIREMENT TO HAVE
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SHELTERS READY AND WAITING FOR THESE AIRCRAFT. FRG REP GRADUALLY WEAKENED IN HIS POSITION AND SAID THAT PERHAPS ON MONDAY, WE COULD AGREE THAT THESE AIRCRAFT SHOULD BE ELIGIBLE FOR INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING BUT THAT MILITARY AUTHORITIES SHOULD STUDY THE BEST LOCATIONS FOR CONSTRUCTING THESE SHELTERS. AT THE NOVEMBER 19 EWG MEETING, MISSION WILL INSIST ON ENDORSEMENT OF SHELTERS FOR US M PLUS 3 AIRCRAFT. IF THE OTHER COUNTRIES WILL NOT ACCEPT THIS RECOMMENDATION, MISSION PLANS TO KEEP IT IN THE REPORT AS BRACKETED LANGUAGE FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION AT THE DPC LEVEL.
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